

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

MARK L. THOMPSON,)
Plaintiff,) 4:07CV3110
vs.) AMENDED
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS) ORDER
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, OMAHA,) SETTING FINAL SCHEDULE
Defendant.) FOR PROGRESSION OF CASE

The parties' joint motion for extension of all deadlines, filing 15, is granted and,

IT IS ORDERED: The provisions of the court's earlier, initial progression order remain in effect, and in addition to those provisions, the following shall apply:

1. **Motions for Summary Judgment.** Motions for summary judgment shall be filed not later than April 30, 2008. See NECivR 56.1 and 7.1.

2. Discovery Deadlines:

a. **Deposition Deadline.** All depositions, whether or not they are intended to be used at trial, shall be completed by June 16, 2008.

b. **Written Discovery Deadline.** All interrogatories, requests for admission and requests for production or inspection, whether or not they are intended to be used at trial, shall be served sufficiently early to allow rule time response before the deposition deadline. Counsel may stipulate to extensions of time to respond to discovery requests in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 29, but such extensions shall not extend any of the dates in this order; any request to extend the deadlines of this order shall be sought by motion.

c. **Discovery Motions.** Discovery motions shall be filed not later than May 15, 2008 as to matters which are then ripe for decision; discovery matters arising after that date may be the subject of motions until the deposition deadline. Counsel are reminded of the provisions of NECivR 7.1(i).

3. **Disclosure of Expert Witnesses.**¹ Each plaintiff, counter-claimant, and cross-claimant shall, as soon as practicable but not later than April 15, 2008, serve all opposing parties with the statement required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) regarding each expert witness it expects to call to testify at trial pursuant to the provisions of Rule 702, 703 or 705, Fed. Rules of Evidence. Each defendant, counter-defendant, and cross-defendant shall serve its statement of the expert witnesses it expects to call to testify pursuant to Rule 702, 703 or 705, Fed. Rules of Evidence, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) as soon thereafter as practicable, but not later than May 15, 2008. If necessary to refute the disclosed opinions of an expert witness of an opponent, a plaintiff, counter-claimant, or cross-claimant may disclose additional expert witnesses not later than May 29, 2008, provided that the disclosing party then provides all of the information described in Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 26(a)(2) **and** makes the expert witness available for deposition prior to the date set for completion of depositions. Supplementation of these disclosures, if originally made prior to these deadlines, shall be made on these deadlines as to any information for which supplementation is addressed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e). The testimony of the expert at trial shall be limited to the information disclosed in accordance with this paragraph.

4. **Pretrial Disclosures:** Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3), each party shall serve opposing counsel and file a redacted version as applicable with the following information regarding the evidence it may present at trial other than solely for impeachment purposes as soon as practicable **but not later than the date specified:**

- a. **Nonexpert Witnesses - On or before May 15, 2008:** The name, address and telephone number² of each witness, separately identifying those whom the party expects to present and those whom the party may call if the need arises.
- b. **Deposition Testimony and Discovery** -In accordance with NEGenR 1.1(c), unless otherwise ordered, the requirement of NECivR 16.2(a)(2)(F), of designating discovery intended to be utilized at trial, is suspended for this case; motions to require such designations may be filed not later than May 28, 2008.
- c. **Trial Exhibits** - On or before August 15, 2008 A list of all exhibits it expects to offer by providing a numbered listing and permitting examination of such exhibits, designating on the list those exhibits it may offer only if the need arises.

¹ A treating physician must be identified pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A), but a treating physician is not deemed to be "retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in a case" so as to require a written report under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

² In accordance with the E-Government Act, counsel shall, on witness lists, exhibits, and other disclosures and/or documents filed with the court, redact social security numbers, home addresses, phone numbers, and other personally identifying information of witnesses, but shall serve an unredacted version on opposing parties.

Waiver of Objections: Any and all objections to the use of the witnesses, deposition testimony, discovery responses, or exhibits disclosed pursuant to the above subparagraphs, including any objection pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 32(a) that a deponent is available to testify at the trial shall be made a part of the pretrial order. Failure to list objections (except those under Fed. R. Evid. 402 and 403) is a waiver of such objections, unless excused by the court for good cause shown.

5. Motions in Limine.

- a. Motions *in limine* challenging the admissibility of expert testimony at trial under Federal R. Evid. 702, *See, Kumho Tire Co., Ltd. v. Carmichael*, 526 U.S. 137 (1999) and *Daubert v. Merrell-Dow Pharmaceuticals.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), shall be filed by **June 16, 2008** and accompanied by a request for a hearing if necessary. Failure to timely move for a hearing may constitute waiver of the request for a hearing.
- b. Any **other** motions *in limine* shall be filed on or before **August 22, 2008**

6. The Final Pretrial Conference with the undersigned magistrate judge is set for **August 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.** in chambers, **566 Federal Building and United States Courthouse, Lincoln, Nebraska.** The final pretrial conference shall be attended by lead counsel for represented parties. Counsel shall complete prior to the pretrial conference, all items as directed in NECivR 16.2.³ By the time of the pretrial conference, full preparation for trial shall have been made so that trial may begin immediately thereafter. The pretrial conference will include a **discussion of settlement**, and counsel shall be prepared through investigation, discovery and communication with clients and insurers, if any, to discuss fully the subject of settlement, including realistic expectations about liability, obstacles to agreement, offers made, and offers which can be made at the conference. Counsel shall be prepared to make additional offers or proposals for settlement in behalf of their clients at the pretrial conference, and counsel shall be prepared to make or opine on recommendations for further negotiations and conferences.

7. Settlement:

- a. Not later than **two weeks prior to trial**, plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel shall serve on defendant or defendant's counsel a written, updated settlement proposal. Defendant or defendant's counsel shall respond in writing to such proposal not later than **one week before trial**.
- b. In the event the parties mediate their dispute, notice of the mediation shall be given to the staff of the magistrate judge's office. The filing of a mediation reference order will terminate pending motions, without prejudice to refiling. If the mediation is not successful, the moving party may reinstate such a motion by filing a written notice to that effect, and the other parties

³ Except as noted above in Paragraph 4(b). Again, all personal information should be redacted from the public version of the order and/or attachments filed with the clerk.

may respond in accordance with the local rules, regarding the date of the notice as reinstating the response/reply time that remained as of the date the mediation reference order was filed.

c. Notice of settlement shall be given to the trial judge's office as soon as practicable but in any event in time to avoid summoning a jury. If a case settles and notice of settlement is not given in sufficient time to avoid summoning a jury, assessment of jury costs may-- and normally will-- be made against a party and/or counsel for one or more of the parties. For purposes of this paragraph, a jury is considered summoned for a trial at noon the business day prior to the designated date of trial

8. **Non-jury trial** is set to commence, at the court's call, during the week of **September 15, 2008 for five days**, in Lincoln, Nebraska, before the Honorable **Richard G. Kopf**, United States District Judge. Unless otherwise ordered, jury selection shall be at the commencement of trial.

9. **Motions to alter dates.** All requests for changes of deadlines or settings established herein shall be directed to the magistrate judge by appropriate motion, including all requests for changes of trial dates. Such motions shall not be considered in the absence of a showing by counsel of due diligence in the timely development of this case for trial and the recent development of circumstances, unanticipated prior to the filing of the motion, which require that additional time be allowed.

10. **Report on Mediation:** Not later than **July 1, 2008** counsel shall report by letter or telephone call to the office of the undersigned: (a) the name of the mediator or other neutral facilitator they have hired for their mediation in this case; (b) the date the mediation is scheduled; and (c) the parties' agreement on whether the progression of the case otherwise ordered herein should be stayed pending the outcome of the mediation. The court will then enter an appropriate mediation reference order. In the event any party objects to the entry of a mediation reference order, such party shall, also not later than **July 1, 2008**, notify the undersigned by letter of the objection and the grounds therefor. In the event a mediation reference order is entered notwithstanding the party's informal objection, a formal objection may be filed not later than **seven days following the filing of the mediation reference order** and shall comply with paragraph 3(f) of the court's Mediation Plan (as amended January 30, 2004). Failure to file the objection shall be deemed a waiver of the objection.

DATED January 7, 2008.

BY THE COURT:

s/ David L. Piester

United States Magistrate Judge

Rev: 2-07